

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a method for prioritizing packet flows within a switching network. The method includes the steps of receiving packets at an input port, stamping the packets with an arrival time, and classifying the packet into a flow, wherein the flow is determined based upon at least a class of service of the packet, assigning the packet to a queuing ring according to the flow of the packet, and maintaining a flow ratio pending within the switch based upon the classification of the packet.